

January 30, 2023

South Carolina: January temperatures ranged from 3.6 to 6.2 degrees warmer than historic averages depending on location. Total rainfall during the month ranged from 2.0 inches in Horry County to 11.2 inches in Aiken County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 45 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions and 12 percent had moderate dry conditions by month's end, compared to 51 percent abnormally dry and 11 percent moderate drought at the beginning of the month.

Excessive rainfall made for wet field conditions which has delayed much field work and preparation. Freezing temperatures at the end of December and beginning of January damaged winter crops, including citrus trees. Strawberries were noted to be behind where they should be for this time of the year, and some producers experienced a loss due to the frost. Various diseases were an issue in strawberries for many growers. Overall, the crop was in fair to good condition. The small grain and cover crops had broken through the soil and were reported to be looking good.